

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00239 251830Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-14 DHA-02 /086 W
-----069574 260024Z /65

R 251454Z JUL UU
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1734
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 239

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK, EI
SUBJECT: SUNDAY TIMES REPORTS: "CARTER AIMS TO HELP
IN ULSTER"

1. LONDON SUNDAY TIMES JULY 24 CARRIED PAGE 4 ARTICLE
BY CHRIS RYDER ALLEGING THAT: "THE NEXT TARGET
IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S CRUSADE FOR PEACE WILL BE ULSTER.
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS HE WILL DELIVER A SPEECH
PROMISING AMERICAN HELP TO BOTH COMMUNITIES IF IT WILL
HELP THEM FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND END THE
VIOLENCE." ARTICLE CITING "U.S. POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES", ASCRIBED "CARTER'S PROPOSED INTERVENTION"
TO "THE INFLUENCE OF FOUR IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICIANS" AND
CLAIMED "AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAVE CONSULTED THE BRITISH AND
IRISH GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED INTERVENTION AND
SOUNDINGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AMONG ULSTER POLITICIANS, THE
LATEST ON JULY 4 AT THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY OF THE
US CONSUL IN BELFAST." RYDER DESCRIBED "MOST VALUABLE
ASSISTANCE THE US COULD PROVIDE WOULD BE INVESTMENT IN
ULSTER'S BATTERED ECONOMY." HE COUPLED FORTHCOMING
TRIP TO US BY MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMERCE DON CONCANNON
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WITH "ANTICIPATION OF THE GOOD WILL THAT COULD FOLLOW
CARTER'S INITIATIVE." SIMILAR STORY APPARENTLY CARRIED
IN DUBLIN PRESS SUNDAY.

2. IN REPLY TO INQUIRIES FROM MEDIA, PRINCIPAL OFFICER:

(A) DENIED ANY "SOUNDINGS" TAKEN BELFAST JULY 4,
(B) EXPRESSED IGNORANCE OF NEW ACTIVITY ON PART EXECUTIVE
BRANCH VIS-A-VIS NORTHERN IRELAND, (C) CITED STATEMENTS
BY IRISH-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, SHORT VISIT BY SENATOR
MC GOVERN AND INCREASED NUMBER OF BELFAST CHILDREN (ALMOST
800) AS GUESTS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES THIS SUMMER AS
REFLECTIONS GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AND GROWING
SOPHISTICATION
ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUES IN UNITED STATES, (D) SPECULATED
THAT ACTIVITIES OF PEACE PEOPLE AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS (HUME) MAY
ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF AMERICAN PUBLIC INTEREST.

3. COMMENT: RYDER HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS STORY FOR
ABOUT 4 WEEKS. DESPITE ASSURED TONE, ARTICLE IS
SPECULATIVE AND THIN WITH ONLY NEW ELEMENT BEING FORECAST
OF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH.

SPICER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00239
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770265-0335
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197707101/aaaagasw.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 31028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1724952
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 970915; sph 970915; sph 970915
Subject: SUNDAY TIMES REPORTS: \"CARTER AIMS TO HELP IN ULSTER\"
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SOPN, EI, UK, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009